



ASPIRA CREED

BEST PRACTICES FOR WORKING WITH STUDENTS

- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should use the *ASPIRA Process Model* in all counseling activities through building *awareness, analysis and action*.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should provide the best quality services to students and parents and keep an open mind for improvement of services and providing feedback.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should be aware of education reform efforts and the status of Hispanic education at the national and state levels.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should be aware of the courses students need to take along the educational pathway to college.
- ▶ While ASPIRA is fundamentally a Puerto Rican organization, ASPIRA recognizes that it has a responsibility to serve other groups in communities served by ASPIRA.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should affirm the Puerto Rican/Latino culture, yet provide the opportunity for affirming other cultures.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should recognize and respect cultural, racial, religious, lifestyle, age, disability, and gender differences among students and volunteers.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should protect the individual rights and personal dignity of students and volunteers through an awareness of the impact of stereotyping and discrimination.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should recognize when to refer students to other sources. If the needs of an Aspirante can not be met within the type of service offered, ASPIRA Counselors should suggest other appropriate professional referrals.

ASPIRA Counselors should maintain a resource list of professional contacts for referring students and parents on education, financial aid, and other matters.

- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should understand that counselor/student sessions should be kept confidential.
- ▶ In recognizing that a student is of danger to himself or others, ASPIRA counselors must break confidentiality. ASPIRA Counselors must inform their immediate supervisor and/or Executive Director for appropriate recourse.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should know that getting involved in intimate relationships with students is inappropriate.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should know what constitutes sexual harassment.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should know what is considered appropriate behavior with students.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should know state and federal laws concerning liability issues with students and parents.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should recognize that all individuals deserve to be treated equally.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should not provide services in exchange for personal favors.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should avoid transporting students in their own vehicles, unless requested by the Executive Director.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should keep up to date student caseload files, to include follow-up data on student progress.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should be aware of new developments in the field of counseling and seek opportunities to upgrade their skills.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should recognize that they are role models and that this role extends beyond the confines of the ASPIRA office to the community at large. Hence, ASPIRA counselors should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.
- ▶ ASPIRA Counselors should be aware of the impact they have in students' lives.



An investment in Latino youth



NOW THE MOMENT
OF GREAT POSSIBILITY
OPENS BEFORE US

**MOBILIZATION
FOR EQUITY**

STUDENTS' RIGHTS

- 1: Students are entitled to have parents, advocates, and concerned educators involved in all decisions affecting their education.
- 2: Students are entitled to learn in an integrated, heterogeneous setting responsive to different learning styles and abilities.
- 3: Students are entitled to comprehensive, culturally supportive, and developmentally appropriate curriculum and teaching strategies.
- 4: Students are entitled to access to a common body of knowledge and the opportunity to acquire higher order skills.
- 5: Students are entitled to broadly based assessments of their academic progress and grading structures that enhance individual strengths and potential.
- 6: Students are entitled to a broad range of support services that address individual needs.
- 7: Students are entitled to attend schools that are safe, attractive, and free from prejudice.
- 8: Students are entitled to attend school unless they pose a danger to other children or staff.
- 9: Students are entitled to instruction by teachers who hold high expectations for all students and who are fully prepared to meet the challenges of diverse classrooms.
- 10: Students are entitled to equal educational opportunity supported by the provision of greater resources to schools serving students most vulnerable to school failure.